



**Town of Glastonbury, CT  
Refuse and Recycling Division  
(860) 652-7772**

**Testimony in support of:**

[S.B. No. 115 \(RAISED\)](#) AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSUMER PACKAGING

[H.B. No. 5139 \(RAISED\)](#) AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIRES

[H.B. No. 5142 \(RAISED\)](#) AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN GAS CYLINDERS

Dear Senator Cohen, Representative Gresko, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Mike Bisi and I am the Sanitation Superintendent for the Town of Glastonbury, CT. I have held this role with the Town for 34 years and I have also served as the Chair of the Capitol Region East Operating Committee, which facilitates Household Hazardous Waste collection programs for 7 local communities, and the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority, which represents 15 municipalities on solid waste and recycling matters. Over the past few decades, the Town of Glastonbury and I have witnessed the significant increase of waste disposal costs, (tip fees), as well as an exponentially growing volume of waste. In response to this growing concern, the Glastonbury Town Council recently adopted a resolution in support of EPR legislation at its meeting on February 8, 2022. On behalf of the Town of Glastonbury, this testimony supports all three of the EPR proposals before you today: SB 115 for Packaging, HB 5139 for Tires, and HB 5142 for Gas Cylinders.

Since the 1970s, Glastonbury has been at the forefront of recycling and sustainability initiatives, and has made a concerted effort to divert waste from the waste stream wherever possible. Such efforts have focused on resident education and the implementation of recycling programs, including those beyond materials mandated by the state. Glastonbury offers successful recycling programs for textiles, brush, and aggregate materials (asphalt, concrete, brick, etc.). Additionally, Glastonbury was among the first communities in the state to offer a food waste disposal program at the Transfer Station. Through a partnership with Quantum Biopower, the Town diverts food waste from the solid waste stream and converts it into an organic compost material. The food waste program has successfully diverted an annual average of 4.9 tons of waste from the waste stream since 2018. In recognition of these and other sustainability initiatives, Glastonbury has been formally recognized as 1 of 5 Silver certified municipalities through the inaugural Sustainable CT program in 2018 (3 year term), and 1 of 12 communities to again achieve the Silver designation in the 2021-2024 program cycle.

Although the preceding programs have proven effective, packaging continues to comprise a large majority of the waste stream, and specific legislation is imperative for significant change. The Town of Glastonbury supports the 3 proposed EPR bills as it has experienced success and cost reductions through the existing EPR programs for mattresses and paint products. The Town has historically paid \$25/mattress for disposal, and through the EPR program, Glastonbury saved roughly \$57,000 in FY21 alone through the recycling of 2,267 mattresses. The paint recycling program has also been successful in reducing tonnage at the Transfer Station and diverting hazardous waste materials from sewers, drains, and other improper disposal methods.

**Tires - HB 5139 - EPR for Tires** – The Town supports the EPR bill for the recycling of tires, as it would translate to cost savings to the municipality and taxpayers. Glastonbury receives and disposes of roughly 1,200-1500 tires per year at the Transfer Station and Bulky Waste Facility, and incurs nearly \$5,000 in related expenses. With the growing expense and dwindling pool of vendors willing to accept these materials, the current process is simply not sustainable for the long term. The proposed EPR bill would provide a direct savings to the municipalities, and subsequently the taxpayers, and would shift the financial responsibility back to the manufacturers.

**Gas Cylinders - HB 5142 - EPR for Certain Gas Cylinders** - Glastonbury and communities throughout the state continue to face substantial challenges with pressurized gas cylinders. These tanks of various sizes often contain gas and other hazardous substances and pose a significant safety hazard to staff and community members, as well as the environment. Much like tires, there are limited resources for recycling these materials and effective management will continue to present a challenge without the EPR bill in place.

**Packaging – S.B. No. 115 – EPR for Consumer Packaging** - As noted above, packaging continues to comprise a large percentage of the overall waste stream. Over recent years, there has been an exponential increase in packaging as consumers order more and more items online and/or in bulk. The COVID-19 pandemic has further perpetuated this trend, and the volume of packaging to be recycled is growing at an unprecedented rate. Furthermore, the increase in packaging has resulted in more contamination and associated staff resources required to sift through materials, all of which equates to a financial burden on the local governments and taxpayers. The EPR for Packaging would shift the responsibility to manufacturers and provoke necessary changes, such as reduced packaging and/or the use of more sustainable materials.

In summation, the Town of Glastonbury supports the 3 proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bills as an imperative catalyst to a more sustainable waste management system. Disposal fees (tip fees) will continue to rise, and the pool of vendor resources to support proper disposal is continuing to dwindle, therefore legislative action is paramount to true change. The proposed bills will positively impact the environment, contribute to reduced waste, and rightly shift responsibility and accountability from local communities to manufacturers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Bisi  
Sanitation Superintendent, Glastonbury CT  
[Mike.bisi@glastonbury-ct.gov](mailto:Mike.bisi@glastonbury-ct.gov)  
(860) 652-7774